

CONFIDENTIAL

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27 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: " Agency Advances of Funds to BGN

25X1 1. At the request of [redacted] Budget Division, OC, the attached statement on the Board on Geographic Names (Attachment 1) was prepared for his use in briefing Mr. E. R. Saunders, Comptroller, on the services rendered to CIA by BGN. The Agency had received a request via the Bureau of the Budget from Representative Engle of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in Congress for information on advances of funds made to BGN by CIA.

25X1 2. [redacted] came to [redacted] this morning and discussed the situation with [redacted] during which it was decided that [redacted] would visit Mr. Saunders to give him the complete picture of BGN-OBI relationships, services performed by BGN in connection with the NIS Program, etc.

25X1 3. In the afternoon [redacted] attended a meeting with Mr. Saunders and [redacted] in Alcott Hall and delivered to Mr. Saunders the paper of background statements (Attachment 1) and discussed with him the matters mentioned above. At this meeting the "Schedule of Advances Made to Board of Geography" (Attachment 2) setting forth the amounts advanced to BGN each year since 1948 was approved for forwarding to Mr. Hamilton, Bureau of the Budget.

[redacted]
B. C. CLARKE

Enclosure:

1. BGN Statements
2. Schedule of Advances to BGN

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Board on Geographic Names

The BEN is charged by statute with the standardization of geographic names in the United States and its possessions, and all foreign areas. With the activation of the NIS Program in 1948, there was a need for the development of gazetteers to insure uniformity in geographic names throughout the approximately 85 different sections and related base maps of the NIS for which production responsibility was assigned to more than 40 different components of IAC and non-IAC agencies. Arrangements were made, therefore, to fiscally support the BGN on a continuing basis in the preparation of gazetteers for the NIS Program.

In addition to the production of the gazetteers the BGN also reviews for geographic name consistency all the contributions received from the more than 40 contributors to this program. At the time this gazetteer program was started there were no other gazetteers in existence suitable for NIS purposes, and there is still no other gazetteer program in being that can meet requirements of the NIS Program and the intelligence community as a whole.

Gazetteers have been produced on more than 85 of the 103 land areas of the world. However, because of the urgency of making approved standardized geographic names available to NIS producing offices in the early stages of the NIS Program, most of these gazetteers were produced in preliminary form with the realization that further name research and expansion of these gazetteers would be necessary to fully meet NIS requirements. Revision of these preliminary gazetteers is now underway.

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Specifically, the Office of Geography, Department of the Interior, performs the following services and functions in contributing to the National Intelligence Survey:

- a. Undertakes research and generates standard geographic names for reproduction and distribution by CIA. These gazetteers cover all areas assigned for name standardization research.
- b. Effects name standardization for and editing of base maps used by all contributing agencies in their preparation of NIS Sections and other elements.
- c. Edits all NIS elements produced by the contributing agencies in the course of each fiscal year. This amounts to editing the text and accompanying tables, figures, and maps for accuracy and constancy of geographic name usage of approximately 550 NIS elements.
- d. Performs such other services as the editing of supplementary geographic name lists, the maintenance of a geographic name inquiries service, and the issuance of gazetteer correction lists.

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for
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Schedule of Advances Made to Board of Geography

Amount

1948

1949

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

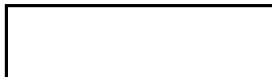
1955

1956 As of 4/27/56


1957 As of 4/27/56

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Note



This revision, received this morning from

Chief, Budget Div, contains the corrections we previously had by
phone from  - BCC, 1 May 56.

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